THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For medium range weather forecasting (3 days and beyond), numerical weather prediction techniques are used. For this purpose a Supercomputer and other facilities have been set up at the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), New Delhi. State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) are provided telecommunication facilities along with a personal computer to receive the forecast in real time from NCMRWF. Based on 3 day-forecast provided by NCMRWF, SAUs prepare agromet advisories for the use of the farmers.

(c) and (d) The short range operational weather forcasts issued daily by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) have been generally correct. The NCMRWF forecasts and the related advisories are presently in an experimental mode. On the basis of the feed-back, NCMRWF are progressively refining their technique for upgrading the forecast.

Low Progress in Family Planning

*718. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India lags behind many developing countries in Family Planning progress; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such a low progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) A statement showing the achievements of India's Family Welfare Programme is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below) There are some developing countries whose birth rate is higher than India's and there are some others where it is lower. However, each country's performance has to be seen in the context of its social, economic, political and cultural framework and are therefore not comparable.

Statement

Parameter and units	1951—1961	1993
Birth Rate (per 1000 population)	41.7*	28.7**
Death Rate (per 1000 population)	22.8*	9.3**
Total Fertility rate	5.97*	3.6$
(Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	146*	74**
Couple Protection Rate (percent)	10.4† (1970-71)	45.4† (31-3-94)
Cumulative Number of births averted (in million)	0.04†	168.78† (31-3-94)

Note

* Census of 1961

** Sample Registration Survey (SRS), 1993

$ Sample Registration Survey (SRS), 1992

† Programme statistics/estimates.